

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of the Claims will replace all prior versions and all prior listings of the claims in the present application.

Listing of The Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a high density oligonucleotide array on a solid support, said method comprising the following steps:

- a) providing a solid support having a surface comprising functional groups;
- b) attaching an activated nucleotide to said functional group in the presence of an activator, said activator comprising 4,5 dicyanoimidazole;
- c) repeating said step of attaching an activated nucleotide to form an oligonucleotide array having at least 100 different oligonucleotides /cm².

2. (Original) A method for preparing a high density oligonucleotide array according to claim 1 wherein said array has at least 500 different oligonucleotides /cm².

3. (Original) A method for preparing a high density oligonucleotide array according to claim 1 wherein said array has at least 1000 different oligonucleotides /cm².

4. (Original) A method for preparing a high density oligonucleotide array according to claim 1 wherein said array has at least 5000 different oligonucleotides /cm².

5. (Original) A method for preparing a high density oligonucleotide array according to claim 1 wherein said array has at least 10,000 different oligonucleotides /cm².

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said activated nucleotide is a phosphoramidite.

7. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein said phosphoramidite is located at the 3' hydroxyl group of a nucleotide.

8. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 6 wherein said ~~phosphoramidite~~ phosphoramidite further comprises a photo protecting group.

9. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 8 wherein said photo protecting group is selected from the group consisting of NVOC nitroveratryloxycarbonyl, NPOC nitropiperonyloxycarbonyl, MeNVOC alpha-methyl-nitroveratryloxycarbonyl, and MeNPOC alpha-methyl-nitropiperonyloxycarbonyl.

10. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 9 wherein said photo protecting group is ~~MeNPOC~~ alpha-methyl-nitropiperonyloxycarbonyl.

11 to 15 (Cancelled).

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